

Ten Minute Supervisor #6

Checklist: *Legal Responsibilities of Board Supervisors and Districts*

Why were conservation districts formed?

The Washington State Legislature passed the Conservation Districts Law in 1939 (Chapter 89.08 RCW). The law states that the mission of each of today's 48 conservation districts is to conserve its renew-

able natural resources. Those resources include the land, air, water, vegetation, fish, wildlife, wild rivers, wilderness, natural beauty, scenery, and open space in each district (RCW 89.08.020).

What are the duties of supervisors and powers of districts?

	Legal Obligations	Discretionary Activities
<i>Supervisor Duties</i> (RCW 89.08.210)	Maintain a full and accurate record of district business that is available to the Conservation Commission and State Auditor for review	Employ staff
	Secure surety bonds for board officers and employees who handle money	Solicit legal counsel
	Carry out an annual financial audit	Delegate board authority
		Appoint advisory committees
<i>District Powers</i> (RCW 89.08.220 except where otherwise noted)	Prepare a long range program to conserve renewable natural resources within the district boundaries	Research the conservation of renewable natural resources in cooperation with state or federal agencies
	Prepare an annual work plan based on the long range program	Administer projects related to the conservation of renewable natural resources within the limits of lawful financial appropriations
	Solicit comment at public hearings, confer with other public and private agencies, and keep state and local agencies fully informed (RCW 89.08.341) about the district renewable resources program	Make available to cooperators agricultural equipment, materials, or supplies on terms the district prescribes
	Submit the long range program and annual work plan to the Conservation Commission	Demonstrate and implement best management practices
	Certify a list of best management practices and approve conservation plans for a property tax exemption under RCW 84.36.255 and make the appropriate forms available to property owners who may qualify (RCW 89.08.440)	Make available to other districts, state, and local agencies the district's maps, reports, and data (RCW 89.08.341)
	Approve/certify dairy nutrient management plans (RCW 90.64.026)	Submit a tax assessment request to the county legislative body (RCW 89.08.400)
		Cooperate with other districts, the county (RCW 89.08.210), and local municipalities
		Accept or expend donations, gifts, or other contributions in accordance with statutory authority
		Pay dues to WACD or NACD
		Make internal policies and procedures; enter into agreements; make or execute contracts; acquire or sell personal or real property; borrow money; sue or be sued